

# SPECIAL A. F. OF L. CONVENTION EDITION

## REPORT OF A. F. OF L.

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1933

Enlarge the liberty of both one human being and the liberties of the world are just one goal—William Lloyd Garrison.

VOL. 23, NO. 31

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WHOLE NO. 1173

WILLIAM GREEN, President

### Fifty-Third Annual Convention Of American Federation of Labor Opens Session with 535 Delegates

Addresses of Welcome Given by President Dickinson of Washington Central Labor Union, President Reichelderfer of the District Board of Commissioners; United States Senator King, Chairman of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, and President Littlepage of the Washington Board of Trade—President Green of the A. F. of L. Delivers Keynote Address Outlining the Workers' Problems Under the National Recovery Act and Insisting that the 30-Hour Week Is Absolutely Necessary to Provide Jobs for America's 11,000,000 Unemployed.

Washington.—The fifty-third annual convention of the American Federation of Labor opened in Washington today with a session of enthusiastic interest and a deep sense of responsibility on the part of the delegates present at the first session. It was the largest gathering of delegates since the 1917 meeting in Buffalo, which was presided over by William Green.

The convention met in the ballroom of the Willard Hotel. Prior to the opening of the convention an orchestra of students of the Washington Central Labor Union No. 161 gave a concert.

The convention was called to order by Richard A. Dickinson, president of Washington Central Labor Union No. 161, Bishop McNamara, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, and William Green, President of the A. F. of L. The keynote address was delivered by William Green, President of the A. F. of L. He outlined the workers' problems under the National Recovery Act and insisted that the 30-hour week was absolutely necessary to provide jobs for America's 11,000,000 unemployed.

Following the keynote address, the orchestra played "America." Dickinson then declared that organized labor was not in the position of a supplicant, but that it was a partner in the nation's economic life.

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### Militant Efforts of AFL in Organizing Workers Has Achieved Great Success

Executive Council Declares Recovery Act Imposed Upon Wage-earners the Obligation to Group Themselves in Trade Unions—National Campaign in Basic Industries Has Brought Thousands of Toilers into Union Fold.

Washington.—The militant and constructive work performed by the American Federation of Labor in organizing the workers in the basic industries has achieved great success. The Executive Council of the A. F. of L. has declared that the Recovery Act has imposed upon wage-earners the obligation to group themselves in trade unions.

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### Green Demands 30-Hour Week to Put 1,000,000 Idle to Work, Higher Wages, Social Justice Legislation

Editorial Note: In opening the 1933 Convention of the American Federation of Labor at Washington, D. C., on October 7, William Green, president of the Federation, made a keynote speech emphasizing the demand for the 30-hour week and higher wages in the fair practice code established under the National Recovery Act to make jobs for over 10,000,000 jobless workers. This is a summary of the highlights of his speech.

President Green's speech, Dr. Rev. John J. McManis, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, presiding, was heard by a large audience. He outlined the workers' problems under the National Recovery Act and insisted that the 30-hour week was absolutely necessary to provide jobs for America's 11,000,000 unemployed.

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### MISS PERKINS FIGHTS NEW AID FOR LABOR

She Tells A. F. of L. Convention  
That Her Department Will  
Gather Facts for Wage Earners  
on Economic, Financial  
and Industrial Matters.

Washington.—President Roosevelt has announced that Miss Perkins will be in charge of a "Division of Labor and Labor Relations" in the Department of Commerce. She will be in charge of gathering facts for wage earners on economic, financial and industrial matters.

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### URGES UNEMPLOYED 5,000,000 WOMEN TO TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

President Chairman of Women's  
Trade Union League Asks  
A. F. of L. to Drive  
to Bring Women Workers  
to Trade Union Movement.

Washington.—Many injustices have been imposed on the workers by the National Recovery Act. The President has asked the A. F. of L. to drive to bring women workers to the trade union movement.

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### Workers Voiceless on Wages, Hours, Under Agricultural Adjustment Act

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### MICHIGAN BANKERS ON TRIAL FOR DRAUDING DEPOSITORS

Detroit, Mich.—Charged with accepting deposits, knowing that their bank was insolvent, and with intent to defraud, five prominent bank officers were on trial today in Detroit. The defendants were charged with accepting deposits, knowing that their bank was insolvent, and with intent to defraud.

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### Employers' Policy of Blacklisting Older Workers Condemned by AFL Council

Washington.—The national policy of employers to refuse employment to older workers has been condemned by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. The Council has declared that the policy of blacklisting older workers is a violation of the principles of the National Recovery Act.

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## AFL Executive Council Asks Huge Federal Fund for Jobless Relief

Annual National Cost of Caring for Unemployed is One Billion Dollars, 95 Per Cent of Which Comes from Public Funds—Family Assistance Far Below Decent Standards—Surplus Farm Products Should Be Given to Idle and Incomes and Profits Taxed for Relief Funds.

(Continued from Page 1)

The necessary budget to give a family of four even a bare subsistence of \$10 a month—\$7.10 a week—no oblige.

The social conditions of living at this level for 1,668,000 people are the things which it is realizing that many of the recipients of relief are children. Reports from Philadelphia and New York State show that 44 per cent of the persons on relief rolls are children under 16 years of age.

### Big Federal Fund Necessary

To meet the great need which faces the unemployed this winter, the Council will make the following recommendations:

"1. That the American Federation of Labor insist on adequate relief appropriations from Federal funds by Congress immediately after its reconvening in January, so that relief will be available by February when it is extremely needed.

## Federal Pay Cut for Thousands Jammed Through U. S. Congress

AFL Executive Council Says Ordinary Parliamentary Procedure Was Scrapped and Labor Refused Adequate Hearings in Consideration of "Economy" Bill.

Washington.—The astounding order with which Congressmen, when they really make up their minds to do anything, can get their way, was shown last week when the Congress of the United States passed a "economy" bill by a vote of 247 to 167.

Pay reductions amounting to a total of \$100,000,000 in the salaries of federal government employees were included in the "economy" bill. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives on October 3, 1933, and by the Senate on October 4, 1933.

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## Individual Control of Industry Ended by National Recovery Act

AFL Executive Council Says the Law Sets Up Collective Control and Firmly Establishes the Right of Workers to Organize Without Interference from Employers.

Washington.—The National Industrial Recovery Act is "the most important and far-reaching legislation ever enacted by Congress," declared the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in its report to the membership last week.

"It marks a new epoch in the development of our country," the report declared. "It initiates a definite change from the free-lance individualism of the past to the collective control and regulation of industry."

"The act provides one of the most fundamental changes ever initiated in an industrial country," the report declared. "The object of the Recovery Act, the Council said, is to remove the cause of unemployment, to improve standards of labor and industry, to conserve natural resources and to conserve national health."

"Cooperation Among Trade Groups," the report declared, "is the key to the industrial recovery program. The act provides for the organization of trade groups, to be known as industry-wide boards, to coordinate the activities of labor and management under government supervision."

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## Green Demands 50-Hour Week to Put \$10.00 Due to Work, Higher Wages, Social Justice Legislation

(Continued from Page 1)

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commodity prices, but wages stand still, and will rise on their own, and we will get more of these cheap goods. It is a point which we must not so that it will conform with the law, so that it will be understood they are a part of it.

"We have not forgotten how our workers, in other nations, have suffered because of the law, so that it will be understood they are a part of it."

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## Aggressive Campaign for Old-Age Pensions Urged by AFL Council

Washington.—The necessity of aggressive action to secure nationwide security for the aged by the enactment of adequate old-age pension legislation in every State was stressed by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in their report to the Federation's annual convention, which could not be persuaded to vote favorably for this character of legislation, they did vote for the creation of commissions to study the subject and report at some future sessions of the State legislatures.

Legislators Are Sympathetic

Aged Are Passed in 35 States

Twenty-five States now have old-age security laws, 19 mandatory and six optional. In the remaining 15 States, people are still cared for in almshouses and by public and private charity.

Legislation in the form of bills, resolution, sent copies of the A. F. of L. model old age security measure to all legislatures. The measure is so worded that the officers have been introduced in State legislative bodies.

Legislation which met in January, 20

"In every instance where votes were taken, even though the measures were defeated, the workers have reason for hope. The fact that the measure was voted on could only be interpreted as an indication of the development of a favorable public opinion in favor of this legislation.

Legislative and Executive Councils of the Executive Council to utilize every means at the command of the American Federation of Labor to secure the passage of its efforts to secure the enactment of old age pension laws in the different

persistent work is necessary to persuade the legislators of the 12 backward States to recognize and perform their duty to the dependent aged.

**Labor's Campaign for Pensions**

In describing the work in the interest of old age security performed by the American Federation of Labor during

**Adequate Income Demanded for Aged**

"We urge as a social obligation that adequate provisions be adopted so that every producing worker may be assured, after his productive years, of an adequate income, at least equal to the income earned at the time of retire-

the year and the general need for pension legislation, the Council said:

"Wage-earners want most of all security of income during their producing years and assured income for old age."

"During the past year through State

Federations of labor and city central bodies the American Federation of Labor has carried on an aggressive campaign in behalf of old age pension legislation. Some progress has been made, but not as much as the urgency of the

social justice legislation providing for the payment of pensions to superannuated workers was introduced in a number of States.

**A. F. of L. Protected Workers'**

## Rights in Recovery Legislation

**Washington.—The influence of the**

President Grgen appeared before the House Committee and urged the incorporation of the proposed amendments. They were approved by the House Committee on Ways and Means and passed the

convention here outlining their activities in connection with the course of the National Industrial Recovery Act through both Houses of Congress.

Animation corporations and employers' organizations which have remonstrated

— **Company Union Blocked**

Notable among these unpatriotic groups were the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. To

them "recovery" meant exclusively the "recovery" of profits for those who own and control industry and the continued subjugation of the workers by the notorious company union and individual barterism with their unorganized workers. The evidence clearly showed that Congress was opposed to "company unions."

In their report to the convention the Executive Council gave the following account of how the Recovery Act was saved for the workers, who perform most of the necessary labor in the area:

**the act, which gives the workers the right to organize without interference from employers.**

The Executive council deemed the pending legislation of such grave importance that it caused a conference to be called in Washington of representatives of all national and international unions.

This conference tended to insist upon inserting several amendments in Subdivisions 1 and 2 of Section 7, and likewise referred to the Executive Council the proposal to protect America's wage

## BREAKDOWN OF SCHOOLS DEMANDS FEDERAL AID, AFL COUNCIL SAYS

**Building Curtailed, Scholars Increase While Teachers Decrease—Gasoline and Chain Store Taxes Hurdled for School Work**

Washington—Drastic action in the form of Federal assistance and tax shifting to remedy the breakdown of the American public school system during the summer months is being urged by the National Education Association.

"No section of the country, no community, no individual has the necessary and valuable in the employment of many workers, we feel that the building of school houses at this time to take care of the present increase

minity in any season put back the schools have suffered materially during the last two years," the Council declared. "In fact, thousands of schools have been closed entirely, after a tragic effort had been made locally to keep the school population would be better, for not only would many workers be employed, but many children, the citizens of tomorrow, would thereby be given a fairer chance in life.

"In far too many places a system of charging tuition evidences in the public schools marked discrimination thereby

denying those who cannot pay the right to send their children to the public school.

**Scholarship Increase, Teachers Decrease**  
 The number of teachers employed

have been taxed in order to raise school revenues, and fairly good returns of revenue have been had from this source. We commend it to all State federations for their consideration.

**Tax Dodging Should End**

"As tax dodging has become an all too prevalent activity and as State and local taxes as well as Federal taxes are evaded, thereby causing the tragic shortage in State and local funds, which

"School building programs have been seriously curtailed. During the last year there was a reduction of almost 50 per cent in the amount of capital funds available for school construction

INSURANCE OFFICIAL TRIED  
FOR EMBEZZLING HUGE SUM

**Instruction Curtailed**  
Thousands of pupils are being

Highly essential parts of the school system are being eliminated everywhere. Kindergartens, night schools, continuation schools, vocational training classes, medical and dental clinics

Pointing out that many States contemplate still further reduction in school appropriations for 1933-34 as compared

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General Littlepage stressed the importance of government in the affairs of mankind and declared that all gov-